



U.S. Foundation Funding for Latin America, 2014–2015

WITH ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS ON CENTRAL AMERICA



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About Foundation Center

Established in 1956, Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to succeed. Foundation Center maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. and, increasingly, global grantmakers and their grants—a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit Foundation Center’s website each day and are served in its five regional hubs and its network of more than 400 funding information centers located in public libraries, community foundations, and educational institutions nationwide and around the world. For more information, please visit foundationcenter.org, call (212) 620-4230, or tweet us at [@fdncenter](https://twitter.com/fdncenter).

About Hispanics in Philanthropy

Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) works nationally and globally to strengthen Latino equity, leadership, and voice. Over our 35-year history, HIP has invested more than \$50 million in Latino-led, Latino-serving nonprofits across the Americas. We partner with foundations, corporations, and individuals to bring increased resources to Latino-focused work in health, education, civic engagement, gender, and more. Recent accomplishments include launching HIPGive.org, the first bilingual, bicultural crowdfunding platform focused on Latino communities. Since its launch in 2014, \$2 million has been raised and distributed for local projects in the U.S. and Latin America. Additionally, HIP provides leadership training and professional development to Latinos working in the social sector through its Next Generation Latino Líderes program, which launched in 2015. For more information, please visit hiponline.org.

About Seattle International Foundation

Seattle International Foundation (SIF) champions equity and rule of law in Central America through good governance and a robust civil society. SIF works with other donors to the region to increase philanthropy and to promote collaboration, learning, and coordination of efforts to address inequality in Central America. SIF was founded in 2008 as a supporting organization to Seattle Foundation for the purpose of increasing and enhancing philanthropy and development from the Pacific Northwest. Since 2008, SIF has granted more than \$20 million to 243 organizations in 81 countries, including \$12 million in grants to Central America. For more information, visit seaif.org. To learn more about the Central America Donors Forum, visit cadonorsforum.org.

About the Central America Donors Forum

This report was prepared for the Central America Donors Forum, an initiative of Seattle International Foundation. The Donors Forum is the key networking and learning space to advance philanthropy and development efforts in Central America. The 2018 invitation-only meeting held in San Salvador, El Salvador brings together more than 200 leaders from business, philanthropy, government, and civil society to discuss priority issues and successful models of development, and explore co-investment for social impact. Past Donors Forum co-hosts include CentraRSE, Ford Foundation, Gates Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Microsoft, Sumarse, Unidos en Red, and the Swedish Embassy in Guatemala. To learn more about this event, please visit cadonorsforum.org.

For more information about this report contact Grace Sato, knowledge services manager, at gms@foundationcenter.org.



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U.S. Foundation Funding for Latin America

Introduction

This report examines grantmaking in 2014 and 2015 for Latin America, with a closer look at philanthropy for Central America. The analysis is based on grants of \$10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations (see p. 15, About the Data). The two-year analysis is an update from previous research Foundation Center has conducted in collaboration with the Seattle International Foundation and Hispanics in Philanthropy over the past seven years.¹

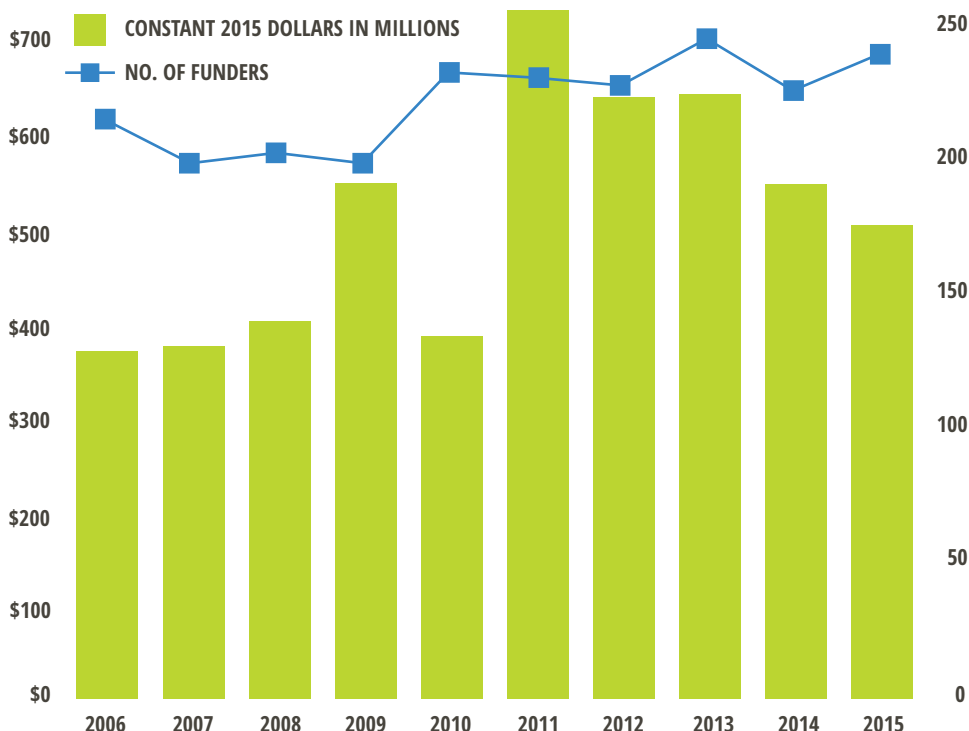
This year's report contains additional analyses, including:

- ◆ Funding for Latin America by population groups served
- ◆ A comparison of grantmaking for Latin and Central America with other global regions
- ◆ An explanation of the funding pipeline and some of the challenges of tracking funding
- ◆ Funding for Central America by issue area
- ◆ A glimpse at funding beyond the largest U.S. foundations for Central America
- ◆ Bilateral and multilateral aid for Central America

Trends in Funding for Latin America, 2006–2015

Between 2006 and 2015, U.S. foundation funding for Latin America increased 36 percent, from \$358.8 million to \$489.5 million, in constant dollars (Figure 1). Funding peaked in 2011 and then steadily declined. The increase in 2011 is largely attributable to one unusually large grant of \$209.2 million in endowment support from the Walton

FIGURE 1. U.S. FUNDERS FOR LATIN AMERICA FUNDING TRENDS, 2006–2015



Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations. Constant 2015 dollars based on annual average Consumer Price Index, U.S. city average for all items, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of June 2018.

Family Foundation to the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for its international scholarship program, providing scholarships for students from Central America and Mexico to attend universities in Arkansas. The number of funders investing in the region increased from 215 in 2006 to 240 in 2015.

Funders for Latin America, 2014–2015

In 2014 and 2015, 306 large U.S. foundations awarded 3,114 grants totaling \$1 billion for Latin America. Grants were awarded to 1,510 organizations, some of which are located in Latin America and others of which are based in the U.S. or other parts of the world with programs targeting Latin America.

Between 2006 and 2015, U.S. foundation funding for Latin America increased 36 percent.

The top 20 funders provided 81 percent of grant dollars for Latin America (Table 1). The top funder was the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (\$262.6 million), whose funding priorities include global health and sustainable economic growth. The largest grant by the Gates Foundation to a Latin American-based organization was \$19.7 million to the International Potato Center, headquartered in Lima, Peru.

TABLE 1. TOP 20 FOUNDATIONS BY GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA, 2014–2015

FOUNDATION	STATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF GRANTS
1 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	\$262,602,439	97
2 Ford Foundation	NY	121,169,369	438
3 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	66,680,894	68
4 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	CA	53,012,770	55
5 Howard G. Buffett Foundation	IL	49,254,309	15
6 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	44,133,736	62
7 The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	30,858,314	19
8 Foundation to Promote Open Society	NY	27,462,048	232
9 W. K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	26,256,800	122
10 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	25,379,000	91
11 The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	GA	20,813,693	65
12 The Rockefeller Foundation	NY	18,542,633	22
13 Bloomberg Philanthropies	NY	12,731,000	6
14 NoVo Foundation	NY	11,075,000	15
15 Citi Foundation	NY	10,683,000	95
16 Paulson Family Foundation	NY	10,575,837	3
17 Paso del Norte Health Foundation	TX	10,119,139	20
18 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	9,421,500	50
19 The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust	NY	8,533,777	48
20 Walton Family Foundation	AR	8,346,462	29

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

TABLE 2. TOP 20 FOUNDATIONS BY SHARE OF GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA, 2014–2015

FOUNDATION	STATE	NO. OF GRANTS	AMOUNT	% OF ALL GIVING
1 Tinker Foundation	NY	41	\$5,783,000	79.6
2 The Summit Foundation	DC	62	5,990,336	76.3
3 Paso del Norte Health Foundation	TX	20	10,119,139	46.9
4 The Weberg Trust	IL	2	2,150,400	29.1
5 Blue Moon Fund, Inc.	VA	37	7,406,916	27.3
6 The Overbrook Foundation	NY	61	2,836,000	22.2
7 The Flatley Foundation	MA	4	5,500,000	19.3
8 Howard G. Buffett Foundation	IL	15	49,254,309	16.4
9 Monsanto Fund	MO	71	4,993,319	14.9
10 Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.	NY	3	1,628,397	13.8
11 J. Paul Getty Trust	CA	22	2,715,000	13.2
12 Paulson Family Foundation	NY	3	10,575,837	12.9
13 The Mondelez International Foundation	IL	4	1,594,735	12.8
14 Eagle Foundation	NE	2	1,000,000	12.3
15 The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	GA	65	20,813,693	12.0
16 Ford Foundation	NY	438	121,169,369	11.8
17 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	CA	55	53,012,770	11.7
18 MetLife Foundation	NY	28	8,072,885	9.9
19 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	68	66,680,894	9.2
20 Alcoa Foundation	PA	29	3,294,790	8.2

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

This global organization strives to achieve food security for the poor in the developing world through research, innovation, and capacity building related to root and tuber farming and food systems. In the two-year research period, the Gates Foundation awarded 8 grants totaling \$43.1 million to the International Potato Center.

The top 20 funders provided 81 percent of grant dollars for Latin America; the top 10 funders accounted for 69 percent.

The Ford Foundation distributed the most grants for the region (438 grants totaling \$121.2 million). The Ford Foundation has been working in Latin America since 1962 and has offices in Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago. Three-quarters of the foundation's grants for Latin America were distributed to recipient organizations based in the region.

Six foundations in the dataset awarded more than 20 percent of their total grantmaking for Latin America (Table 2). The New York–based Tinker Foundation dedicated at least 80 percent, and the Washington, D.C.–based Summit Foundation allocated 76 percent. Both foundations have a mission-specified focus in the region. The Tinker Foundation's programs in Latin America encompass democratic governance, education, and sustainable resource management, while the Summit Foundation's priorities involve empowering girls, conserving the Mesoamerican Reef, and sustainable cities.

Recipients of Funding for Latin America

The top recipient of foundation funding for Latin America was ClimateWorks Foundation, which supports global and regional efforts to mitigate climate change (Table 3). In the two-year research period, the California-based organization received 13 grants totaling \$80.7 million. The organization received three grants totaling \$4.3 million from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation explicitly for the Latin America Regional Climate Initiative, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote prosperity in Latin American countries.

The largest share of grant dollars for Latin America was directed for the environment (29 percent).

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico was the second-largest recipient of funding for the region (\$51 million), followed by the International Potato Center in Peru (\$43.1 million). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was the sole funder in the dataset for both of these organizations.

Funding by Issue Area²

Foundation grants for Latin America support a variety of causes (Table 4). The largest share of grant dollars for Latin America was directed for the environment (29 percent). The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, for example, awarded \$6.2 million to the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York to conserve 18.6 million hectares

TABLE 3. TOP 20 RECIPIENTS OF FOUNDATION GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA, 2014–2015

RECIPIENT	LOCATION	AMOUNT	NO. OF GRANTS
1 ClimateWorks Foundation	CA	\$80,675,000	13
2 International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	Mexico	51,025,640	8
3 International Potato Center	Peru	43,129,974	8
4 Catholic Relief Services	MD	39,029,145	7
5 Medicines for Malaria Venture	Switzerland	24,283,163	1
6 Save the Children Fund	United Kingdom	19,999,578	2
7 Institute of International Education	NY	17,753,155	5
8 Oxfam America	MA	17,496,029	4
9 Ministry of Culture of Colombia	Colombia	15,129,857	1
10 Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors	NY	11,500,000	3
11 Resource Foundation	NY	10,647,323	23
12 Benefactors of Ecuador	NY	10,565,837	2
13 Wildlife Conservation Society	NY	9,988,450	13
14 Planned Parenthood Federation, International	NY	9,743,092	18
15 Oswaldo Cruz Foundation	Brazil	8,546,720	4
16 Task Force for Global Health	GA	8,464,534	3
17 Educational Foundation for Reproductive Health	Colombia	8,443,034	2
18 Root Capital	MA	8,065,500	17
19 University of Texas	TX	7,946,434	2
20 Washington University	MO	6,942,516	1

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

TABLE 4. FOUNDATION GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA BY ISSUE AREA, 2014–2015*

SUBJECT	AMOUNT	%	NO. OF GRANTS
Environment	\$292,919,058	28.7	699
Health	254,183,590	24.9	480
Community and Economic Development	194,599,767	19.1	634
Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry	193,314,138	19.0	216
Human Rights	132,996,293	13.0	615
Human Services	95,989,785	9.4	320
Information and Communications	77,944,411	7.6	146
Education	74,601,238	7.3	292
Public Affairs	62,026,582	6.1	237
Public Safety	45,076,370	4.4	226
Science and Engineering	35,797,379	3.5	75
International Relations	30,990,173	3.0	176
Social Sciences	20,967,952	2.1	96
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management	17,793,846	1.7	96
Arts and Culture	11,603,073	1.1	117
Sports and Recreation	8,181,609	0.8	29
Religion	5,963,801	0.6	43
Other/Unknown	2,179,719	0.2	36

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Grants may address multiple issue areas (e.g., the environment AND economic development) and are therefore counted more than once.

TABLE 5. FOUNDATION GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA: GRANTS TO RECIPIENTS LOCATED IN LATIN AMERICA, 2014–2015

RECIPIENT LOCATION	AMOUNT	NO. OF GRANTS	NO. OF RECIPIENTS
Mexico	\$139,505,463	485	263
Brazil	85,950,123	331	179
Peru	63,254,518	94	50
Colombia	56,502,133	105	65
Argentina	12,889,846	92	45
Chile	7,517,620	54	37
El Salvador	5,844,867	23	12
Bolivia	3,626,601	17	13
Ecuador	3,561,981	23	15
Guatemala	3,427,008	42	26
Honduras	1,765,000	11	6
Nicaragua	1,704,014	18	11
Uruguay	1,572,122	19	13
Costa Rica	1,501,602	26	16
Paraguay	1,220,862	11	5
Venezuela	738,356	3	3
Panama	391,998	4	4
Suriname	352,600	6	4
Belize	140,000	3	3
TOTAL	\$391,466,714	1,367	770

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

of outstanding biodiversity mosaics in Madidi-tambopata (Bolivia), Yasuni-pastaza (Ecuador), and Yavari-samiria (Peru), including 14 individual protected areas and indigenous territories.

Twenty-five percent of funding was for health. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continued significant funding for global health programs. Though many grants were directed toward organizations that serve multiple global regions, some health grants solely targeted Latin America, including \$4.2 million to Yale University to understand the role of face-to-face social networks in neonatal and infant health interventions in rural Honduras.

Additionally, 19 percent of funding went toward community and economic development. In 2015, the Ford Foundation awarded \$1.8 million to Fundación Capital in Bogotá, Colombia to integrate community practice, public policy, and private markets to

help Latin America's poor access the tools they need to improve livelihoods, manage risks, and build assets.

Funding for Population Groups

Seventy-nine percent of foundation grants for Latin America included an explicit focus on specific population groups. The majority (60 percent of total grant dollars) focused on reaching the economically disadvantaged.³

Women and girls, children and youth, and indigenous peoples were among the specified beneficiaries of funding.

Thirteen percent of total funding for the region was designated for women and girls. For example, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded a \$1.3 million, three-year grant to Mexico's National Institute of Public Health supporting research for the promotion of professional midwifery.

Children and youth were the focus of 12 percent of grants, and 8 percent was dedicated for indigenous peoples. In 2014, the NoVo Foundation provided \$1.5 million to the New York-based Population Council, which implements the Abriendo Oportunidades (Opening Opportunities) program in Guatemala's rural and indigenous communities. The foundation reports that the program has reached 8,000 girls in 100 communities and has built a network of 100 young indigenous mentors over the past 10 years. (This is an example of a grant serving multiple population groups, including children and youth, indigenous peoples, and women and girls.)

Five percent of funding was allocated to benefit immigrants, migrants, and refugees. AVINA Americas received grants from several foundations totaling \$3.4 million in the two-year research period. The Washington, DC-based organization managed the Central America and Mexico Migration Alliance, a grantmaking collaborative promoting migrant rights and sustainable regional migration and development policies, among other work in the region.

Funding to Recipients Located in Latin America

Thirty-eight percent of funding by U.S. foundations (\$391.5 million) went directly to recipient organizations located in Latin America (Table 5). Mexico received the largest share of these grant dollars (36 percent), followed by Brazil (22 percent) and Peru (16 percent).

The largest grant to an organization located in Mexico was \$12 million to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2014. The organization works globally to improve livelihoods and foster more productive, sustainable maize and wheat farming.

The majority of funding for Latin America was awarded to organizations located outside the region.

The proportion of funding for Latin America going directly to organizations located in the region tends to fluctuate from year to year: In a report published seven years ago, the proportion of giving to recipients located in the region was far higher.⁴ Examining U.S. philanthropy for Latin America from 2007 through 2009, the earlier report identified that 49 percent of funding went directly to organizations based in the region, 11 percentage points higher than the current research period. In fact, four of the top 10 recipients of funding for Latin America during that research period were based in Latin America. The top recipient was the Mexico-based International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. (See p. 8, Understanding the Funding Pipeline, for more about the challenges of tracking funding to local organizations in the region.)

Funding to Recipients Outside of Latin America

In 2014 and 2015, the majority of funding for Latin America, 62 percent totaling \$628.4 million, was awarded to organizations located outside the

TABLE 6. FOUNDATION GIVING FOR LATIN AMERICA: GRANTS TO RECIPIENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF LATIN AMERICA, 2014–2015

GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED	AMOUNT	NO. OF GRANTS	NO. OF RECIPIENTS
Mexico	\$107,128,085	375	194
Brazil	61,169,642	126	84
El Salvador	46,226,921	44	26
Honduras	37,387,642	83	53
Nicaragua	35,440,408	60	37
Peru	25,289,293	81	52
Ecuador	24,676,964	59	33
Chile	21,884,151	31	20
Colombia	21,394,746	90	56
Guatemala	18,441,939	129	82
Bolivia	11,608,257	50	25
Costa Rica	10,927,892	43	15
Belize	7,033,729	31	17
Uruguay	3,884,722	15	8
Argentina	2,904,378	33	25
Suriname	2,150,000	10	2
Paraguay	1,819,422	10	6
Venezuela	1,388,340	15	6
Panama	1,220,526	21	15
Guyana	515,000	3	2
French Guyana	300,000	2	2
TOTAL*	\$628,366,594	1,747	739

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.
*Represents the unique total of dollars, grants, and recipients. Grants occasionally benefit more than one country and are therefore counted more than once in country totals. Unique total includes grants that may benefit regions (e.g., Latin America or Central America) rather than specific countries.

region. The top 20 recipients of funding for Latin America (Table 3) also reflect this trend: Three-quarters are located outside of Latin America; more than half are located in the United States.

Table 6 presents the breakdown of grants awarded to non-Latin American recipients for beneficiary countries. Of these grants, funding ultimately benefiting Mexico topped the list, accounting for \$107.1 million, followed by Brazil (\$61.2 million) and El Salvador (\$46.2 million).

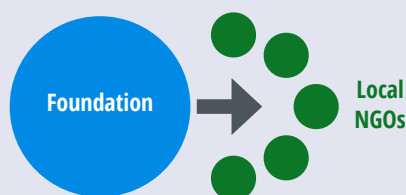
Grants are often made to benefit geographic regions, not just specific countries. In all, foundations made 568 grants totaling \$197.2 million to non-Latin American recipients for projects in the Latin American region.

For example, in 2014, Ford Foundation awarded \$5 million to Massachusetts-based Root Capital for long-term financing to low-income coffee farmers in Latin America, addressing the financing gap for renovation and replanting following the coffee leaf rust crisis.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDING PIPELINE

The data show that the majority of funding from U.S. donors for Latin America goes to recipients located outside of Latin America; only 38 percent of dollars goes directly to recipient organizations located in the region. Why is that? And what is behind these figures?

Funding for Latin America is distributed in a variety of ways. Foundations **give directly** to NGOs located in the region, like to the Bogota-based Fundación Capital.



They also **give to large international NGOs** who operate projects and programs in the region, like the Howard G. Buffett Foundation's support of Catholic Relief Services' work in Central America. These international NGOs are headquartered mainly, but not exclusively, in the U.S. and Western Europe.



Some funders choose to **give to an intermediary organization**, which in turn re-grants the funds to recipients in the region. The intermediary administering the grants can be located in Latin America or elsewhere. For example, the Mesoamerican Reef Fund in Guatemala is a fundraising and intermediary organization receiving grants from foundations and redistributing funds to a variety of local organizations in the region. Seattle International Foundation is located in the U.S. and has a Central America grants program through which it re-grants funds received from foundations like the Summit Foundation to local organizations in Central America.



U.S. charities may also be established solely to support the work of a Latin American NGO. These “friends of” organizations raise support for the work of foreign NGOs while offering U.S. donors a charitable income tax deduction. For example, U.S. foundations made grants to Amigos de Santa Cruz, an organization based in Washington State that solely supports the Indigenous people of Santa Cruz, Guatemala and its surrounding villages.

These exchanges and relationships that constitute the funding pipeline create complexities when tracking the funding. For U.S.-based intermediary organizations or U.S. “friends of” affiliates, the funder data will identify the recipient as located in the U.S., although the final recipient of funding may be based in the region. The data used for this report identifies the initial transaction from donor to first recipient, but the end recipients are not necessarily reflected.

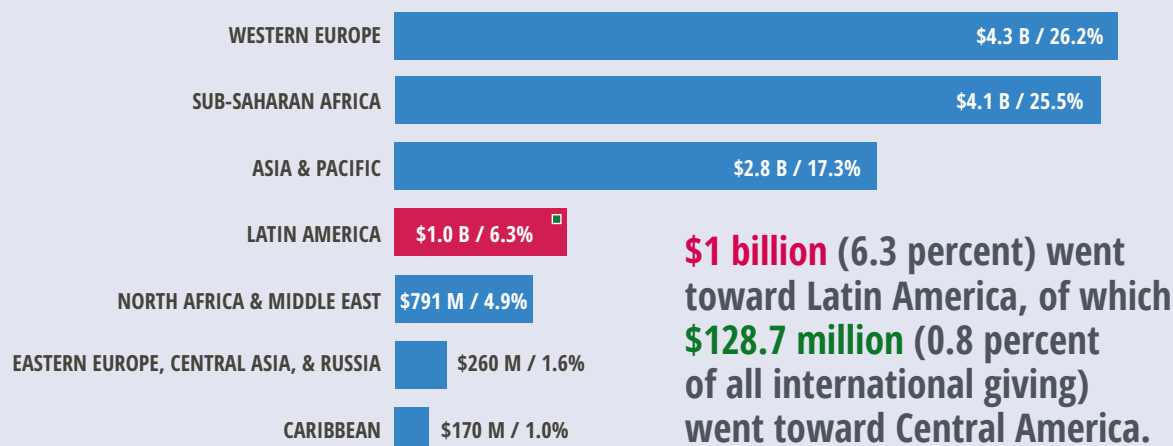
Foundations choose to grant funds in various ways, depending on organizational strategy, resources, and capacity. Some foundations find and carefully vet organizations locally based in Latin America. This process can be costly (in time and resources), and funders might instead choose to give through an international NGO with a long track record of working in Latin America. Others may decide to award a large grant to an intermediary organization who, in turn, distributes more modest-sized grants to local community organizations. Re-granting also allows smaller foundations to contribute to a larger funding pool, maximizing overall impact.

Regardless of the funding mechanism, there are strong arguments for why funding for Latin America must include direct support for Latin American organizations. Local actors understand the local context and tend to offer more efficient, more appropriate, and often more sustainable solutions. Funding Latin American organizations not only brings employment into the region, it also supports local leaders and local leadership development. It impacts local organizations' ability to advocate and bring about greater social change by improving their capacity. Ultimately, it can help strengthen local civil society infrastructure. Given these impacts, funding (whether directly or through intermediaries) is crucial for the region.

U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR LATIN AMERICA IN CONTEXT

FIGURE 2. U.S. FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CAUSES, 2014–2015

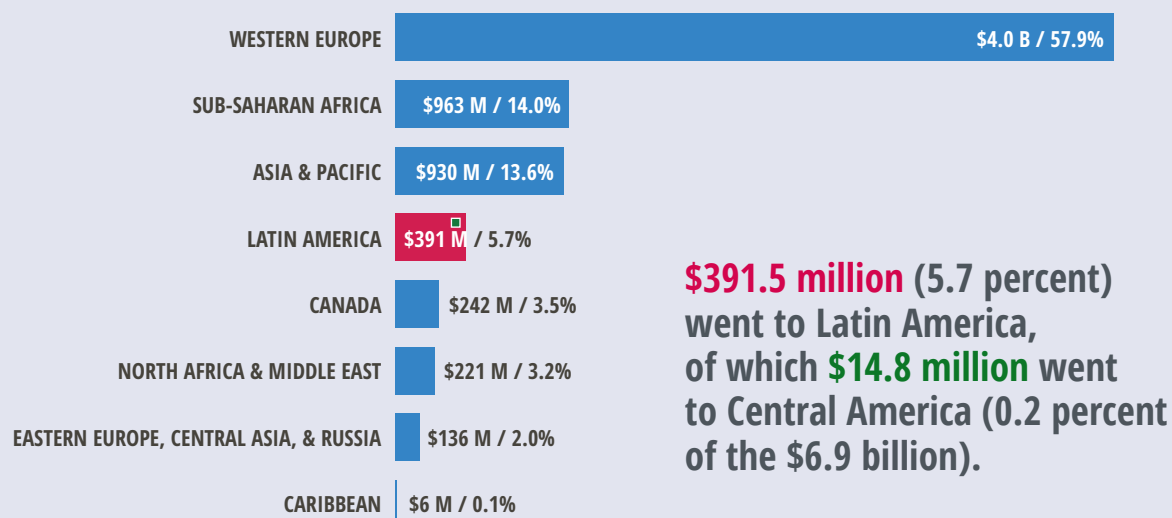
U.S. foundation funding for international causes totaled **\$16.2 billion**, benefiting the following regions:



Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations. Includes grants to recipients located in these regions, as well as grants to organizations located in the U.S. and elsewhere with programs targeting those regions. Grants may benefit multiple regions and, therefore, may be counted more than once in region totals. Total amount includes grants for global programs or causes that may not identify specific regions.

FIGURE 3. U.S. FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CAUSES: LOCATION OF RECIPIENTS (EXCLUDING U.S.), 2014–2015

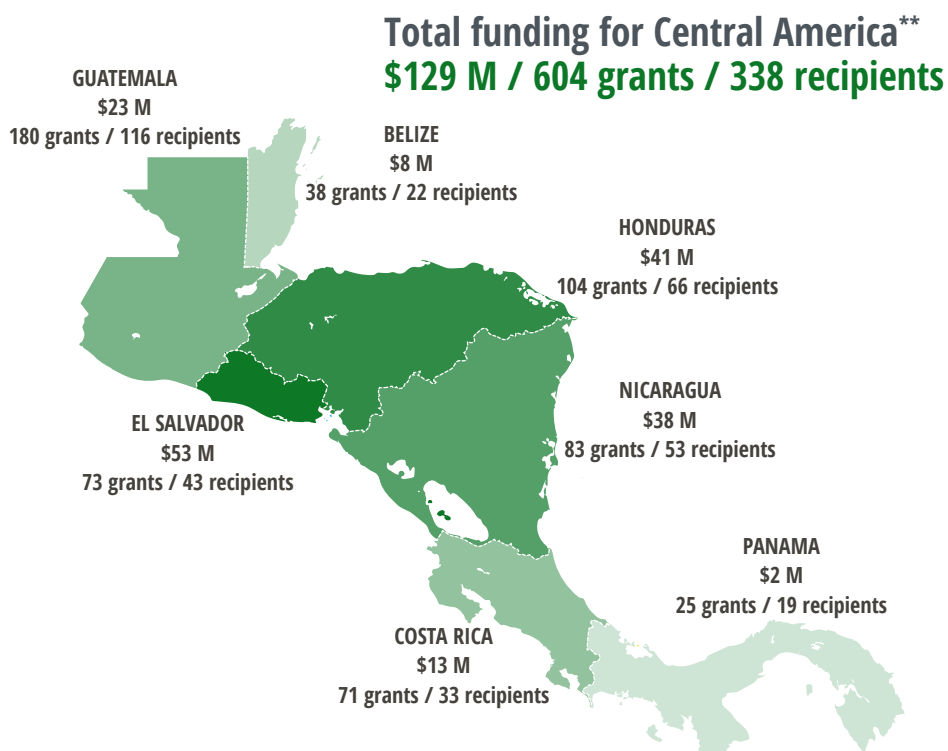
U.S. foundations gave **\$6.9 billion** (42 percent of funding for international causes) directly to organizations in the following regions:



Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

U.S. Foundation Funding for Central America

FIGURE 4. FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, 2014–2015*

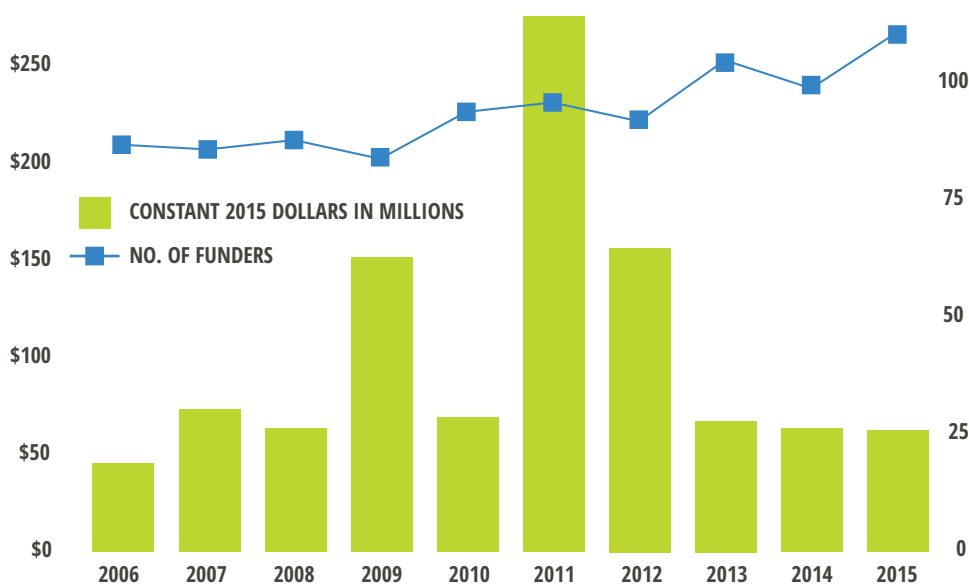


Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Includes grants awarded to organizations in Central America for work in the region or other parts of the world, as well as to recipients located outside of Central America with international programs targeting Central America.

**Represents the unique total of dollars, grants, and recipients. Grants occasionally benefit more than one country. Some grants also benefit the entire Central American region rather than specific countries. Therefore, adding the country totals together will not equal the total for Central America.

FIGURE 5. FUNDERS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA FUNDING TRENDS, 2006–2015



Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations. Constant 2015 dollars based on annual average Consumer Price Index, U.S. city average for all items, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of June 2018.

In 2014 and 2015, 144 foundations awarded 604 grants for Central America totaling \$128.7 million (Figure 4). These grants were awarded to organizations located in Central America, as well as to recipients based outside of Central America with international programs targeting the region.

El Salvador was the beneficiary of the most grant dollars.

El Salvador was the beneficiary of the most grant dollars in the two-year research period (\$53.1 million). The Howard G. Buffett Foundation awarded Catholic Relief Services \$10 million in 2014 to support the El Salvador Cacao Alliance, assisting small farmers to reactivate cacao production and exports. The foundation also provided \$2 million to Catholic Relief Services for alternative pathways to gang violence in El Salvador.

Trends in Funding for Central America, 2006–2015

Examining 10 years of data, from 2006 to 2015, there has been an upward trend in the number of foundations distributing grants for Central America (Figure 5); however, the total amount of funding has remained relatively flat.

Dramatic spikes in funding in 2009, 2011, and 2012 were due to one very large grant in each of these years. As mentioned previously in this report, these grants were for endowment support by the Walton Family Foundation to the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for its international scholarship program.

In 2006, 86 foundations gave grants for Central America; that number increased

to 110 foundations in 2015. Some of the largest funders for the region have also been consistent donors: The Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Ford Foundation were among top 10 funders for the region for each of the past 10 years.

Funders and Recipients of Funding for Central America

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation was the top funder for the region (Table 7), distributing nine grants totaling \$40.8 million. The foundation's mission is to catalyze transformational change, with an emphasis on impoverished and marginalized populations. Their primary funding areas are food security, conflict mitigation, and public safety. In 2014, the foundation also focused on water security.

Maryland-based Catholic Relief Services was the recipient of the most funding for the region (Table 8). The Howard G. Buffett Foundation awarded four grants to Catholic Relief Services; the largest grant was \$22.5 million to support the Water Smart Agriculture initiative in Central America. The goal of the initiative is to restore and manage water resources while increasing farmer income in coffee-producing areas in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Only one organization in the top 20 recipient list is based in Central America: Salvadoran Association of Humanitarian Aid, which received the most foundation funding among Central American organizations. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded the organization three grants totaling \$3.9 million for disaster and emergency response.

Funding for Central America by Recipient Location

Of the \$128.7 million in foundation funding for Central America in 2014 and 2015, 11 percent went directly to organizations based in the region (Figure 8). The vast majority of funding for Central America went to organizations located outside Central

TABLE 7. TOP 20 FOUNDATIONS BY GIVING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, 2014–2015*

FOUNDATION	STATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF GRANTS
1 Howard G. Buffett Foundation	IL	\$40,808,495	9
2 Ford Foundation	NY	14,181,050	74
3 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	10,956,659	9
4 NoVo Foundation	NY	7,365,000	6
5 The Summit Foundation	DC	5,193,054	53
6 Foundation to Promote Open Society	NY	4,510,741	34
7 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	4,048,355	3
8 Seattle International Foundation**	WA	3,911,328	61
9 The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	GA	3,308,452	13
10 The Flatley Foundation	MA	2,500,000	2
11 The Skoll Foundation	CA	2,295,578	4
12 The Rees-Jones Foundation	TX	2,145,000	2
13 W. K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	2,123,033	5
14 Blue Moon Fund, Inc.	VA	1,453,500	6
15 Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	1,433,000	7
16 Mathile Family Foundation	OH	1,396,318	2
17 The Wege Foundation	MI	1,210,000	9
18 Citi Foundation	NY	1,154,000	23
19 The Cummins Foundation	IN	1,038,550	3
20 Peter Hawkins Dobberpuhl Foundation	TN	984,638	2

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Some grants to Central America also benefit countries or regions outside of Central America.

**The Seattle Foundation distributes grants for Central America through the Seattle International Foundation.

TABLE 8. TOP 20 RECIPIENTS OF FOUNDATION GIVING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, 2014–2015*

RECIPIENT	LOCATION	AMOUNT	%	NO. OF GRANTS
1 Catholic Relief Services	MD	\$35,942,350	27.9	5
2 Yale University	CT	4,223,430	3.3	1
3 World Food Programme	Italy	3,890,245	3.0	3
4 Salvadoran Association of Humanitarian Aid	El Salvador	3,850,039	3.0	3
5 ClimateWorks Foundation	CA	3,600,000	2.8	1
6 MADRE	NY	3,500,000	2.7	1
7 Blue Ventures Conservation	United Kingdom	3,037,560	2.4	7
8 EARTH University Foundation	GA	2,923,033	2.3	7
9 AVINA Americas	DC	2,793,067	2.2	4
10 AmeriCares	CT	2,500,000	1.9	2
11 Millennium Water Alliance	TX	2,010,000	1.6	5
12 Friends of the Osa	DC	1,798,954	1.4	8
13 Population Council	NY	1,750,000	1.4	4
14 Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund	PA	1,735,000	1.3	11
15 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	DC	1,700,000	1.3	1
16 Living Water International	TX	1,680,000	1.3	1
17 Clinton Health Access Initiative	MA	1,603,465	1.2	1
18 Cooperative For Education	OH	1,346,318	1.0	1
19 Water.org	MO	1,199,000	0.9	7
20 Agros International	WA	1,184,638	0.9	7

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Some grants to Central America also benefit countries or regions outside of Central America.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA

How does foundation funding compare with other types of aid? The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tracks official development assistance in the form of bilateral and multilateral aid. Between 2014 and 2015, while 1,000 large U.S. foundations distributed \$128.7 million for Central America, the OECD tracked \$3.1 billion in country programmable aid (CPA).⁵

Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala received the most funding in the region in 2014 and 2015 (Figure 6).

Compared with other recipient countries around the globe, Honduras ranked 51st, Nicaragua was 63rd, and Guatemala was 71st. The top country donors for Central America were the United States (\$563 million), followed by Japan (\$196 million) (Figure 7).

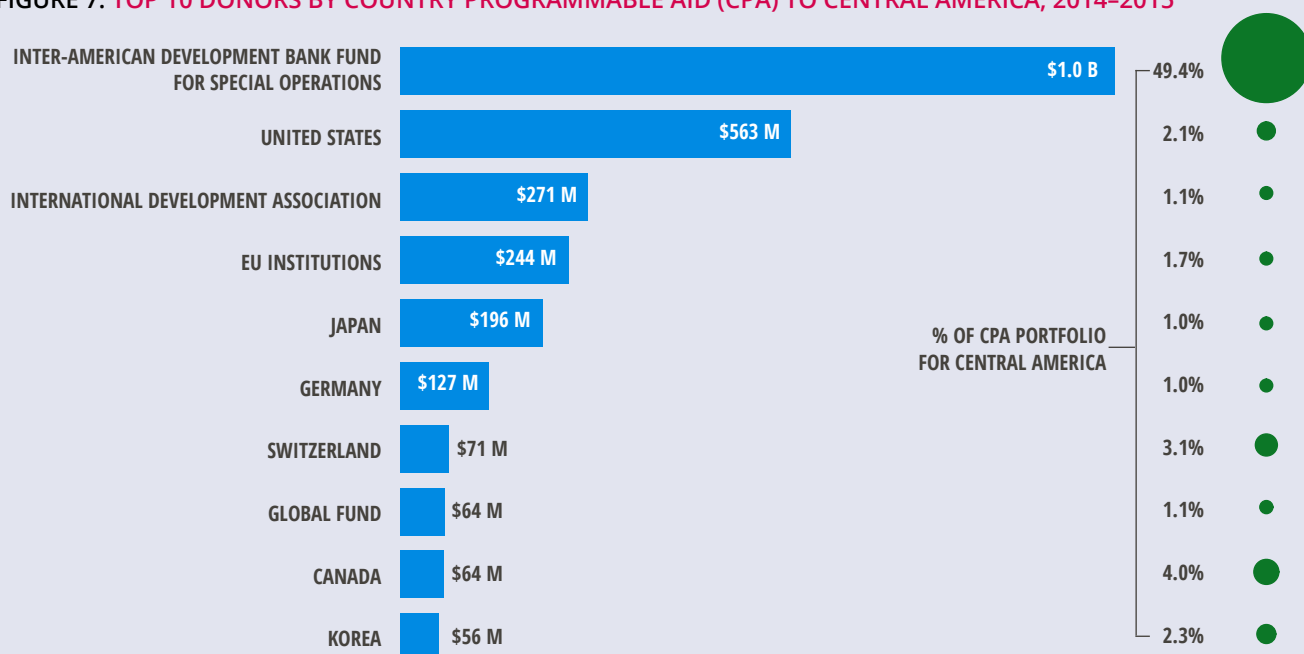
Over the last 10 years, CPA as a whole has been trending upward, increasing 26 percent from 2007 to 2016. However, Central America has not seen the same increase; in fact, CPA for the region (in constant 2016 dollars) decreased by 11 percent in the same period.

FIGURE 6. COUNTRY PROGRAMMABLE AID (CPA) TO CENTRAL AMERICA, 2014–2015



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018. Country programmable aid is derived from the Development Assistance Committee and Credit Reporting System databases.

FIGURE 7. TOP 10 DONORS BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMABLE AID (CPA) TO CENTRAL AMERICA, 2014–2015



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018. Country programmable aid is derived from the Development Assistance Committee and Credit Reporting System databases.

America with programs that benefit the region. Most grant dollars (79 percent) went to U.S.-based organizations carrying out work in Central America. A small portion (2 percent) went to other Latin America-based organizations.

Most grant dollars (79 percent) went to U.S.-based organizations carrying out work in Central America.

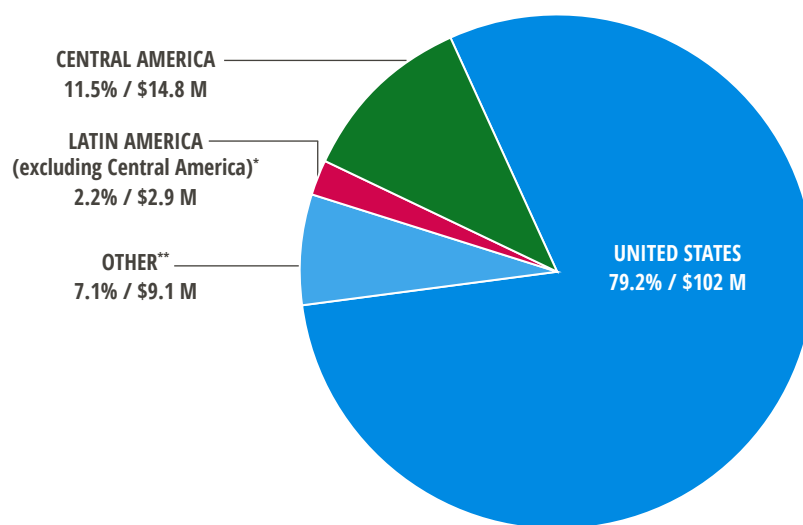
Narrowly missing the top 20 recipient list was the Association of Forestry Communities of Petén, located in San Benito, Guatemala (ranked 21 by grant dollars received). The organization received four grants totaling \$1.2 million from the Ford Foundation to promote climate change policies that benefit forest communities in Mesoamerica and in Guatemala, specifically. The Association of Forestry Communities of Petén is composed of more than 20 community-based organizations and promotes socioeconomic development and improved quality of life in communities through the sustainable management of forests.

Funding for Central America by Issue Area

More than a third of foundation funding for Central America was for the environment (35 percent), followed by 29 percent of grant dollars directed for agriculture, fishing, and forestry, and 20 percent toward health (Table 9).

Grants can have a focus on multiple issue areas. An example is a \$3.6 million award from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to ClimateWorks Foundation in 2015 for the environment and sustainable agriculture. The grant supported ClimateWorks Foundation's Global Forests and Land Use campaign

FIGURE 8. FOUNDATION GIVING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA BY RECIPIENT LOCATION



Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay.

**Includes Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

TABLE 9. FOUNDATION GIVING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA BY ISSUE AREA, 2014–2015*

SUBJECT	AMOUNT	%	NO. OF GRANTS
Environment	\$44,425,688	34.5	110
Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry	36,914,452	28.7	48
Health	25,949,321	20.2	121
Human Services	25,921,266	20.1	110
Human Rights	23,204,581	18.0	141
Community and Economic Development	19,131,614	14.9	101
Public Affairs	12,087,015	9.4	46
Education	10,221,823	7.9	73
Public Safety	9,986,881	7.8	51
Information and Communications	4,657,159	3.6	12
International Relations	1,889,625	1.5	25
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management	901,567	0.7	15
Social Sciences	868,067	0.7	10
Arts and Culture	579,988	0.5	12
Religion	500,121	0.4	16
Science and Engineering	390,000	0.3	4
Sports and Recreation	80,000	0.1	4
Other/Unknown	171,209	0.1	6

Source: Foundation Center, 2018. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 large U.S. foundations.

*Grants may address multiple issue areas (e.g., the environment AND economic development) and are therefore counted more than once.

to realize the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit communities, and protect the environment.

Human services received a larger share of funding for Central America (20 percent) compared with Latin

America as a whole (9 percent). This category encompasses a range of social and human services for individuals and families, including basic emergency aid, youth development and youth organizing, and employment services. Funding included a \$300,000 grant from

FUNDING BEYOND THE LARGE U.S. FOUNDATIONS

To consistently analyze foundation funding trends, Foundation Center uses its annual research set, containing grants of \$10,000 or more by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations. In 2014 and 2015, 144 foundations from this research set distributed \$128.7 million in grants for Central America. Foundation Center's database is growing and contains ever more grants by smaller foundations, public charities, and non-U.S. grantmakers. While we do not include these data in our analyses, they do shed light on grantmaking for Central America apart from large U.S. foundations.⁶

Looking beyond the research set, we identified another 908 grantmakers and an additional \$97.7 million for Central America in 2014 and 2015. This additional funding includes grants from non-U.S. funders, public charities, and U.S. foundations not included in the research set, as well as smaller grants (under \$10,000) from funders in the research set.

Public charities receive gifts from donors and, in turn, provide grants to organizations. Of this additional \$97.7 million, a portion may include re-granted funds. For example, the Central American Women's Fund

(FCAM) in Nicaragua is a recipient of funding from U.S. foundations that also emerges as a donor for the region, distributing more than 230 grants totaling \$2.5 million.⁷

Among the large U.S.-based public charities allocating grants to benefit the region were the National Endowment for Democracy (Washington, DC), American Jewish World Service (New York), and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (New York). Hivos and Cordaid were two charities based in the Netherlands also offering substantial grants for Central America.

Recipients of funding from these additional data sources included EARTH University in Costa Rica and the Mesoamerican Reef Fund in Guatemala. For example, the MasterCard Foundation in Toronto, Canada provided grants in 2014 and 2015 to EARTH University for student scholarships and for postsecondary education.

While this report focuses on 1,000 large U.S. foundations, we include this snapshot of other funding sources to indicate the breadth of funding from other grantmaking organizations, in the U.S. and globally.

the Summit Foundation to the Seattle International Foundation in 2014 for the Central America and Mexico Youth Fund, an intermediary fund providing funding and technical assistance to support young leaders to design and implement innovative projects to improve the lives of local youth and their communities. Another example is a \$100,000 emergency response grant in 2015 from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to the California Community Foundation for the Our Children Relief Fund for thousands of unaccompanied children that fled Central America and resided in Los Angeles County.

Endnotes

1. These publications include *Foundation Funding for Hispanics/Latinos in the United States and for Latin America*; *U.S. Foundation Funding: Latin America, 2010 to 2012*; *U.S. Foundation Funding: Latin & Central America, 2013*; and *U.S. Foundation Funding for Central America in Context*. Please see the About the Data section for changes in the definition of Latin America in this report compared with previous reports.
2. This report's analysis of issue area reflects a new method by Foundation Center of examining the issue focus of grants. Rather than looking solely at the primary purpose of a grant, this analysis includes all issue areas addressed by a grant. Grants may occasionally address multiple issue areas (e.g., the environment AND economic development). The full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each specific subject category. Because of the change in methodology, the data should not be compared with analysis from previous reports.
3. Grants may occasionally address multiple population groups, and the full value of these grants is counted in the shares for each specific category. For example, a grant to support girls is counted for both "children and youth" and "women and girls."
4. Foundation Center, *Hispanics in Philanthropy. Foundation Funding for Hispanics/Latinos in the United States and for Latin America, 2011*.
5. Country programmable aid was developed in 2007 as a closer proxy of aid that goes to partner countries than official development assistance. For more, please see *Getting Closer to the Core – Measuring Country Programmable Aid*, oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/45564447.pdf.
6. Foundation Center has expanded its data collection and processing. Sources of data include direct reporting of grants by foundations, IRS information returns (Forms 990 and 990-PF), foundation websites, and other public sources. Because of lack of consistency in these data, we do not use them in our overall report analysis, and we do not recommend drawing conclusions regarding the relative rankings of funders or recipients.
7. FCAM is an intermediary organization that receives funding and re-grants those funds to local organizations. For more about intermediaries, please see Understanding the Funding Pipeline.

About the Data

This analysis is based on Foundation Center's research set, which includes all grants of \$10,000 or more reported by 1,000 large U.S. foundations. The set accounts for approximately half of the total grant dollars awarded by independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations in the United States. For community foundations, discretionary grants are included, as well as donor-advised grants when provided by the foundation. The data do not include grants by smaller foundations; gifts by corporate giving programs or public charities; grants, fellowships, or awards made directly to individuals; and loans or program-related investments. We use current dollars throughout, except for 10-year trends, which use constant dollars.

Sources of data include IRS returns (IRS Form 990 and Form 990-PF) and information reported directly to Foundation Center through the Electronic Reporting Program. This report focuses on 2014 and 2015, as there is a lag time of more than one year before Foundation Center receives foundation tax returns and can begin processing grants data.

For this report, Central America is defined as Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Latin America is defined as Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In previous publications, we included in our analysis the Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries Cuba and the Dominican Republic, but we have chosen to exclude them here. Because of this change, data may be slightly different in comparison with previous reports.

Funding for Latin America is determined where a grant is directed to a recipient organization located in Latin America or where the grant's purpose benefits Latin America. Grants may benefit more than one country (e.g., Mexico and Brazil) or more than one region (e.g., Latin America and Asia). In these cases, the full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each specified country or region.

How This Analysis Differs from Other Foundation Center Analyses of Geographic Areas Served by Grants

The methodology used in this report to identify and count grants for Latin America differs in an important respect from some other Foundation Center analyses of grants benefiting geographic regions.

Foundation Center examines two components of a grant to determine the "geographic area served": 1) geographic information contained in the grant description; and 2) the physical location of the recipient organization.

If specific information about the geographic area served by the grant is available, the grant is always counted as benefiting that region, regardless of the recipient's actual location. For example, many U.S. foundations give grants to U.S.-based recipients that operate programs outside the United States, such as Catholic Relief Services or CARE. In such cases, the geographic area served by these grants would be the regions in which services are being provided.

In instances where information about the geographic area served is unavailable, Foundation Center uses the physical location of the recipient organization as a proxy for geographic area served and counts these grants as benefiting the region in which the organization is located. These grants, taken together with those for which we do have information about the geographic area served, constitute the set of grants Foundation Center typically counts as "benefiting" a particular region. This methodology for counting grants benefiting a particular region is used, for example, in Foundation Center's recent report, *Global Giving: Global Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations, 2011–2015*.

In the current report, however, we also count a third type of grant as benefiting a particular region—in this case, Latin America. Even if a grant was intended to benefit a geographic area outside of Latin America, the grant is counted as benefiting Latin America if it was awarded to an organization based in Latin America. For example, a grant awarded to an organization based in Colombia to support sustainable agriculture in Kenya would be included in this analysis for Latin America. Based on this difference in methodology, this report counts more grants as benefiting Latin America than we would otherwise count, because it includes every grant where the recipient is located in Latin America, regardless of the geographic area served.

Why this difference in methodology? When conducting a deeper analysis of funding for a specific country or region, we choose to include every grant given to a recipient headquartered in that location because, arguably, the area benefits in some way from those funds (i.e., by employing local residents or contributing in some way to the social and economic life of the region). When doing broader global analyses on funding for global regions, we focus exclusively on the geographic areas served.



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